

**CITY COUNCIL**  
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## **Council Chair Tommy Waters**

### **2023 NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.**

#### **Travel from February 9-15, 2023**

I attended the NACo Legislative Conference from February 9 - February 15, 2023, held at the Washington Hilton in Washington, D.C. Travel days were overnight February 9-10 and returning home on February 15. The following provides a brief summary report of some of the material covered during the conference.

NACo provides great support for county elected officials and their staff for interpreting federal legislation and also looking for opportunities to leverage federal funding to accomplish county priorities. Upon arrival, I spent a couple hours looking at all the materials and then grabbing the ones that are relevant to the City & County of Honolulu.

### **Justice & Public Safety Policy Steering Committee Meeting**

Congressional and federal agency partners joined the Justice and Public Safety Policy Steering Committee to discuss critical issues, including addressing mental health in the criminal justice system, disaster mitigation and response, and the outlook for the committee's policy priorities in the 118th Congress. There was a presentation by Dr. Gupta from Office of National Drug Control Policy @drgupta46 ONDCPDirector@ond.eop.gov.

You need residential treatment beds and programs in jail, and you need transitional housing or you just increase the homeless population. They spoke about the unintended consequences of proliferation of homeless encampments, and what the root causes are of homeless. Housing in tandem with transportation is what allows people to be foundationally functional for their day-to-day lives. Treatment isn't simply a way to get people's life back, it's things all of us do everyday. We need to invest in more transitional housing because people need a base before treatment and a base to be functional in society. Being able to coordinate efforts of all



agencies—addiction and mental health—is crucial as post-pandemic more Americans are suffering from these.

There was also a Presentation on Jails and Justice support Center by James “Chip” Coldren , Center for Naval Analysis (CNA is a non-profit). After several years of decline, jail incarceration rates are on the rise with racial disparities remaining. Health and mental health issues also remain paramount concerns, while deaths in jail due to drugs or alcohol intoxication increased 19% 2017-18 and then quadrupled from 2000-2018. Suicide is the leading cause of death in jail, which is double the mortality rate of individuals in the community.

Then Ruby Qazilbash, Deputy Director policy office bureau of Justice Assistance, US DOJ, presented, explaining that articulating core competencies for jails with performance measures, the need to speed up review of jails, provide substantial and continuous training, and provide technical assistance to promote safe jail environments.

#### Public Assistance Program Overview

##### FEMA

- Challenges to grant application processes, closing out grants
- Stakeholder outreach to understand the burden of spending federal money
- Simplify programs and help governments achieve greater efficiencies

Cybersecurity Grant is in Infrastructure Investment Act for four years and just released Technical assistance. It will go first to states, and then to counties.

1. Know your resources
2. Program delivery is designed to keep customer experience in focus—people will walk you through application award and reporting

Emergency response and community recovery for presidentially declared disasters

Stafford act—disaster declaration process-4 things in a pyramid

1. Applicant (eligible?) can be state local territory or non-profit
2. Facility (eligible disaster damages to facilities)
3. Work (required as a result of the event)
4. And cost (costs related to repair—would a reasonable person deem this “cost” reasonable

##### Emergency Work Categories

- A debris removal
- B emergency protective measures

### Permanent Work Categories

- C roads and bridges
- D Water control facilities
- E buildings and equipment
- F is utilities
- G parks recreation
- Z is management costs for administering and managing awards

Public Assistance Hazard Mitigation, Section 406 of Stafford Act: To provide assistance for cost-effective hazard mitigation measures that reduce the potential for future damage to a facility from a disaster event. (Applies to permanent work projects on key (C-G))

Emergency work is generally the legal responsibility of government and must follow the proper procurements and federal requirements for:

- FEMA
- Recipients
- Applicants
- Sub-recipients (once awarded)

Program Delivery Manager walks you through this process, then transfers responsibilities to a regional office and new point of contact.

Local Governments would like the grants portal to be more user friendly as sometimes we get a “yes” only to get a “no” second guessed and disapproved 6 months later.

FEMA—process improvement and updates are coming. We are aware of this and working on it. We know that we need more consistency in our review process.

Linda Langston (Iowa) past chair of NACO—3069 counties in United States, probably 2709-2800 are small—they don’t have an emergency manager. How do you help us? Meeting people where they are. 80% of counties had a presidentially declared disaster in the last 5 years. And then you have term limits so there’s no institutional knowledge.

FEMA—we are looking at where our grants haven’t gone—we are mapping this out. We have FEMA deserts and we need to build capacity. You local governments know your community best, not us feds. This is an equity issue.



FEMA—we need you to collaborate better with our boots in the ground. How can we continue to work together? We had a 500 year flooding event in Georgia and 5/7 years later these homes are still standing with flood marks in them. People need to know they can purchase flood insurance even if not in a flood zone.

We are 7 counties just declared in Alabama as a disaster from a tornado. We are in the middle of this. Rural small counties. The biggest challenge we have for PA is the debris aspect. Your county engineer will be instrumental in debris removal. We got pre-approved for a debris site and then 6 months later denied. An example is trees not being considered hazardous, but how do we remove this debris from the site?

Florida Hurricane Ian—need to understand why certain sites are not chosen for debris sites. I got a call from the president and vice president. Georgia responded that night. Collaborate, communicate and engage. Finding where the cracks are is difficult. Which level of government which agency—we need to know who we can speak with. Staff need support from elected officials. DEM directors know this.

Our members of Congress don't want to hear from federal governmental agencies, they want to hear from us. We have the power to shift policy!

## HSAC Dinner

Councilmembers and staff and HSAC staff gathered for dinner on Saturday night. It was great to meet the other councilmembers from other counties and talk in an informal setting.



*Sommerset Yamamoto, Council Chair Tommy Waters, and April Coloretti.*



# Sunday, February 12, 2023

## Large Urban County Caucus Business Meeting

NACo's Large Urban County Caucus (LUCC) is the premier national forum for exchanging ideas and solutions that help urban counties address pressing issues. LUCC members met with federal officials and national leaders on housing, economic development and other areas of urban innovation.

Alejandra Castillo—lead EDA, US Econ Dev Admin (EDA) (Dept of Commerce)

The Department of Commerce touches many—for example in addition to EDA there is:

- NOAA
- census bureau
- NTIA

Four main pieces of legislation

1. ARPA
2. Infrastructure Law—Bipartisan—this is important
3. Chips and Science Act
4. Inflation Reduction Act

Internet for all—new FCC maps—NTIA—there are pockets in urban areas that don't have broadband—June 30 deadline for all states

Capital readiness program—MBDA—minority business development agency—access to capital, access to markets

Chips for America—NIST—semiconductor manufacturing

Inflation Reduction Act Programs—NOAA—natural disasters are happening more frequently

EDA budget went from \$450M to \$3B

\$750M to states travel and tourism

\$1B for states Build Back Regional Challenge Grant—60 finalists, each got \$500K for planning then selected 21 winners for the rest

Good Jobs Challenge

EDA has \$1.6B in omnibus budget bill

\$500M tech hubs—chips and science act—outside of Silicon Valley—RFI issued soon—they need \$10B if they can deliver across the country

\$500M for disaster recovery FFY21 and FFY22

\$200M RECOMPETE—new—prime age unemployment gap—RFI soon

Childcare is so important a need across the board—she led YWCA founded in 1898 as child care organization—Biden Admin knows this is a priority.

US Department of Labor (US DOL), Promoting Economic Mobility Through Workforce Opportunity

Bipartisan infrastructure law ensures that federal agencies are building equity into funding opportunities with interagency coordination. How do we get more creative? And how can we do this for and with our underserved communities? With each of these entities, shame on us if we only tell individual stories we need to think about population level impacts and see the needle change.

Good jobs start with apprenticeship, journey jobs, living wages and we can retain employees through worker empowerment, engage employers to improve job quality workforce, pathways to good jobs. Technical assistance on grants is available across the United States.

The following Good Jobs Principles are the way to recruit, hire, and retain good employees at a livable wage.

1. Recruitment and Hiring
2. Benefits
3. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA)
4. Empowerment and Representation
5. Job Security and Working Conditions
6. Organizational Culture
7. Pay
8. Skills and Career Advancement

Project Labor Agreements as Tools for Equity:

1. Set goals for local hires
2. Institute equity plans
3. Implement strategic recruitment policies
4. Require participation of small, green, and/or diverse business enterprises
5. Establish monitoring bodies, employ enforcement mechanisms where appropriate, and require the public release of workforce diversity data
6. Ensure compliance with anti-discrimination protections for workers and any other relevant laws



## Urban spotlight—Cook County Illinois—Cook County Health

- Cook County is 185 years old
- 60% on Medicaid and the health department is uncompensated
- Less than 10% of all beds but 50% of all healthcare safety net beds in the county Public health authority COVID humbled us as a medical community
- “My Shot campaign” public education efforts on COVID-19 vaccines Hospitalization and death rates started declining overnight

The Change Institute of Cook County Health—what about other diseases like heart disease and diabetes—people are waiting too long for medication, sometimes 20-30 years. If we get it sooner we can actually extend their lives 10-15 years and deal with health issues such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, stroke. Convening health, business, academic, and community leaders to deliver impactful change.

### Q&A

Q: how do you make this affordable?

A: Affordability is why people don't take medicines—a common cold can turn into pneumonia. We GIVE the medications away if people can't afford it. But sometimes people can't come in—we can ship it—Work with pharmacies. We connect individuals and help them find us—there is funding. We can do school clinics for example.

Q: How are you communicating this?

A: Same tools like COVID outreach—for heart disease—women of color over age 25 are 50% likely to have heart disease—but for 20 years they did not have access to medication. It becomes an undiagnosed disease. We are looking at how to create technology that makes it easier. Don't go to a doctor/specialist three visits before medication. So now it's faster to access. How do we reduce visits? That's what we are collaborating on.

Q: How can we have digital equity for those using technology for doctor's appointments?

A: a program like the Montgomery County, MD Digital Equity Program

\$45 a month to pay toward broadband for anyone in SNAP or welfare or 200% or below of poverty level (60% AMI). Montgomery connects 50,000 computers to broadband, supplements training for seniors, extends broadband to Ag Reserve and has a UofMD digital training partnership.

## NACO Board of Directors Meeting

We adopted 29 resolutions during this meeting. Of particular importance to me was adopting the Interim Policy Resolution Encouraging Federal Funding for Food Waste Management. The issue that Honolulu and many other counties are facing is that they need additional federal funding to reduce the amount of food waste in landfills. Food waste continues to be a growing management challenge in the United States, with



an estimated 63 million tons of food waste generated annually. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that more food waste reaches landfills and combustion facilities than any other single material in our everyday trash. Diverting food waste materials from landfills to waste management options such as composting, anaerobic digestion and other organic waste processes will reduce landfill footprint growth, improve air quality and promote new and innovative products for enhancing a circular economy model for food.

The adopted policy states that The National Association of Counties (NACo):

- Urges the federal government to provide financial and technical assistance to county governments to achieve measurable food waste reduction.
- Urges the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to further define the goals of the North American Initiative on Food Waste Reduction and Recovery for reducing the disposal of food waste in landfills by exploring opportunities to achieve food waste reduction and recovery within relevant North American industry, commercial, institutional, and governmental sectors.
- Supports federal funding for the development of renewable based materials that promote safe and efficient handling and eliminate unwanted contaminants in the final dispositioned materials.

As we consider where to put the next landfill on O'ahu, federal insight and support like these could assist with diverting food waste to minimize the amount of trash going into our landfills leading to needing fewer landfills and the added benefits of how minimizing food waste in our landfills can contribute to a more sustainable Hawai'i.



# Monday, February 13, 2023

## US Department of Defense (DoD) Listening Session with the Counties of Hawai'i

The DoD Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program facilitates long-term, collaborative partnerships that improve resilience to climate change, preserve important habitats and natural resources and promote sustainable land uses near installations and ranges. Recognizing the central role local communities play in land use in Hawai'i, REPI projects aim to engage local communities with other federal, state, and non-governmental partners in developing collaborative solutions that sustain military readiness, promote community resilience and protect natural and cultural resources. When REPI projects are used to prioritize natural resource management through traditional and culturally astute practices, these initiatives become a tool that everyone can use and share to achieve shared goals of sustainable stewardship of the 'aina.

Councilmembers from all four counties had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss resource conservation efforts around local military installations with DoD representatives and the REPI program (<https://www.repi.mil/>).

Presenters:

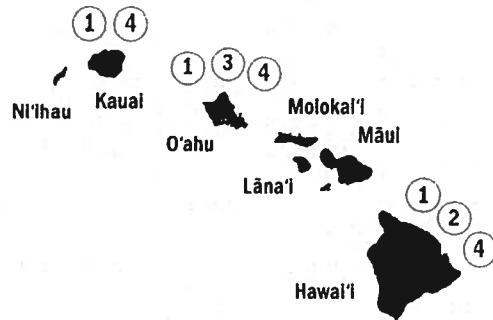
- Ashleigh Holand, Director, Counties Future Lab, NACo
- Kristin Thomasgard, Program Director, REPI Program, DoD

The REPI Program has hosted an annual REPI Challenge for the last 12 years with dedicated funding to advance REPI project outcomes. This cultivates projects, protects critical testing and training capabilities for communities surrounding installations, supports DoD's strategic priorities, and harnesses the creativity of organizations with shared priorities to access unconventional funding sources and leveraging that funding.

REPI uses the term "communities surrounding installations" most generously as communities that are impacted by military training. The way this is interpreted is that ALL islands in Hawaii can receive REPI investment because their natural and cultural community could be impacted even if there isn't a military installation or training ground on their island.

The REPI Program considers four areas for funding as pictured below:

1. U.S. Army Garrison-Hawai'i, Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands, Marine Corps Base Hawai'i, O'ahu & Kaua'i, & Hawai'i Island  
REPI Funds: \$2.9M
2. Pōhakuloa Training Area, Hawai'i Island  
REPI Funds: \$1.3M
3. U.S. Army Garrison-Hawai'i: Makua Military Reservation, Schofield Barracks, Kahuku Training Area, Poamoho Training Area, O'ahu  
REPI Funds: \$2.7M
4. Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands, Marine Corps Base Hawai'i, Pōhakuloa Training Area, Kaua'i, O'ahu, Hawai'i Island  
REPI Funds: \$3.1M



Examples of other islands that do not have military bases but do receive funding are like the island of Lanai. The thinking is that the actions on a military base on another island can affect natural resources on a different island.

There is also an RFP that will be opening shortly for the DoD Legacy Program. This program focused on nationally or regionally significant natural and cultural resource management issues to help support DoD's mission. A number of past projects hit on many of the topics discussed; biodiversity, invasive species, and wildfire. This hopefully provides some useful information on past projects, and will generate some thoughts on what future opportunities there may be. There were 18 projects in the Hawaiian Islands between 2006-2018.

More info on the DoD Legacy Program can be found here. <https://www.denix.osd.mil/legacy/>.

Other funding opportunities discussed were:

1. FEMA, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) as a flood mitigation funding opportunity for Honolulu. Hazard mitigation assistance grants are available through FEMA with the intent of helping communities reduce risks from future disasters and natural hazards. FEMA BRIC assistance may also have funding available for sea level rise mitigation along the Waikiki shoreline with opportunities for partnering with hotels and other coastal communities.
  - a. Website: Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities | FEMA.gov  
(<https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>)



- b. REPI-FEMA partnership  
factsheet: [https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Resilience/REPI\\_FEMA\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Resilience/REPI_FEMA_Fact_Sheet.pdf)
  - c. Hawai'i Hazard Mitigation Officer (position resides within the State Department of Defense, <https://dod.hawaii.gov>): Kelsey Yamanaka ([Kelsey.a.yamanaka@hawaii.gov](mailto:Kelsey.a.yamanaka@hawaii.gov)), Acting State Hazard Mitigation Officer, State of Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency
  - d. FEMA Hawai'i/Region 9 contact: Kathryn Lipiecki ([Kathryn.Lipiecki@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Kathryn.Lipiecki@fema.dhs.gov))
  - e. Information on FEMA BRIC Non-Financial Direct Technical Assistance is attached.
2. The National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF), administered through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, as a funding opportunity for strengthening natural infrastructure and protecting coastal communities.
- a. Website: National Coastal Resilience Fund | NFWF (<https://www.nfwf.org/programs/national-coastal-resilience-fund>)
  - b. REPI-NCRF partnership  
factsheet: [https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Resilience/Complementary%20Programs/REPI\\_NFWF%20NCRF\\_Partnership\\_FactSheet\\_20221201.pdf](https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Resilience/Complementary%20Programs/REPI_NFWF%20NCRF_Partnership_FactSheet_20221201.pdf)
  - c. NFWF's NCRF 2022 Grant Slate factsheet:  
<https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Resilience/Complementary%20Programs/NFWF-NCRF-20221129-Nov-GS.pdf>
  - d. Through the 2023 NCRF, NFWF will distribute **\$140 million** to coastal resilience projects that strengthen and restore natural infrastructure. As a key partner on the NCRF, the REPI Program is pleased to contribute **\$15 million** of the \$140 million to NCRF projects that benefit military missions, increase military installation resilience to extreme weather events, and help defense communities adapt to climate change.
  - e. Eligible applicants for the 2023 NCRF include non-profit 501(c) organizations, state and territorial government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Tribal governments and organizations, educational institutions, and commercial (for-profit) organizations. **For all applicants seeking REPI funding, the REPI Program strongly encourages applicants to coordinate with the local military installation before applying.** Applicants can request funding for coastal resilience projects in one of the four project categories: Community Capacity Building and Planning, Site Assessment and Preliminary Design, Final Design and Permitting, or Restoration Implementation.
  - f. Projects must be located within the coastal areas of U.S. coastal states, including the Great Lakes states, and U.S. territories including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands,

American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. **If applicants are seeking DOD funding, projects must take place outside a military installation or range.**

- g. **Pre-proposals for the 2023 NCRF are due on Wednesday, April 12, by 11:59 PM Eastern Time (ET).** If you would like to learn more about the 2023 NCRF, please visit NFWF's website at [www.nfwf.org/programs/national-coastal-resilience-fund/national-coastal-resilience-fund-2023-request-proposals](http://www.nfwf.org/programs/national-coastal-resilience-fund/national-coastal-resilience-fund-2023-request-proposals). You can also join NFWF's pre-proposal webinar on Thursday, March 2, from 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET. To register for the webinar, please visit <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7450291218725880410>.
3. National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for grant matching to state and local government for public parks and outdoor recreation areas. LWCF's current partner in Hawai'i is DLNR, who prepares a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan every five years to qualify for funding. Although REPI has yet to explore matching funds in the realm of public parks, it is an opportunity worth exploring.
- a. LCWF State and Local Grant Funding website: State and Local Grant Funding - Land and Water Conservation Fund (U.S. National Park Service) ([nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/stateside.htm)) <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/stateside.htm>

## General Session

### HONORARY JACK MARKELL OECD

- 1/4 of Americans spend more than 50% of their income in housing
- OECD finds economic incentives to encourage first time homebuyers can make the problem worse by driving up housing prices and did not spur new construction
- Increasing housing supply is a better approach than the incentives
- Supply is the issue
- Reduce administrative barriers for construction
- Auckland NZ 20,000 new homes added now 5% of housing stock
- OECD speaker former Governor
- Convert unused buildings to housing for families like in Italia
  
- Generosity of American people to take Afghanistan refugees
- How difficult it is to integrate migrants and refugees into city
- New Americans need a lot of assistance and it's worth the effort
- 14% of US population is foreign born



- Higher employment rates
- OECD communities create strongest link with community stakeholders
- With recent immigrants
- When NGOs and admin sit at same table not just in times of crisis but everyday

Refugee integration and immigrants—Match with jobs—1/3 of foreign born workers are overqualified for jobs they hold and they could be the key to acknowledge foreign degrees and licenses—recognize prior learning like in Germany and Sweden. County leaders can play a key role—dispel myths—they pay taxes and do not overuse government assistance—new Americans bring value, reverse trends of depopulation and revitalize communities.

Battling opioid crisis. Substance abuse orders are a public health issue

Prescription monitoring

Canada Opioid wisely—conversations to prevent overprescribing of opioids

State department has a program to work with counties

Expand your access to global best practices

#### GENE SPERLING

- Goal of ARPA ensure rapid equitable comeback from pandemic and to build back better—make your communities more resilient
- We are seeing the benefits
- 2011-2012 during the Obama administration was seeing ramifications of the Great Recession. We didn't have resources to get back
- There are unpredictable bumps in the road—supply chain, Ukraine invasion and China's zero COVID policies.
- This is the BEST model for recovery
- Inflation is coming down. OECD 38 countries have 10% inflation so the US is in the middle of the pack.
- Treat the money as precious, once in a generation.
- March 11 is second anniversary of American Rescue Plan Act
- Speed things up to get money out the door—enhancing these credits incentivizes the private sector to pay higher wages, reinvest in facilities, and restart manufacturing again in this country. Create 9M jobs, 2/3 don't require a college degree but all training is immense in workforce development

#### MITCH LANDRIEU

- Electrification of the economy—charging stations placed where traditionally not seen
- Broadband access

- This helps rural areas
- “Knowledge is the great equalizer”
- Water infrastructure
- Revolving funds—State plan—WIFIA loans. Counties apply low interest rates on loans and they can be forgiven—for water infrastructure—BWS can use this.
- In the 30 years I’ve been doing this, I operated in a fairly rural state. This is the most comprehensive, well thought out approach to fixing what is wrong with America in all my service. IRA/CHIPS/BIL
- Jobs
- Inflation down in last 6 months
- You will not see this much money in a lifetime
- We need to learn to work together to get things down. I spoke to all 50 governors. I’ve asked each state to appoint an infrastructure coordinator. All states have to include counties in their formulas—public transit, clean water, broadband
- All Programs laid out in build.gov
- And LAYER it all

#### JOHN PODESTA

- Inflation reduction act is most significant climate change legislation
- \$370B over 10 years
- Transformative across sectors
- Clean transportation, clean manufacturing,
- Intended to spur private sector investment in clean technologies
- Underserved communities through tax incentives and expanded grant programs
- People will have a decade of certainty.
- This helps with planning big projects.
- \*\*\*retrofitting buildings—there’s tax support for that
- \*\*\*\$9M for efficiency and home rebates run through State Energy Offices
- All of these change our country’s investment strategies and Counties are our partners
- On workforce issue—the flexibility is huge. We need childcare to get people back to work.
- There’s a challenge since ARPA is one time money.
- Make sure your teams understand flexibility in the housing side. Combines with LIHTC. Wraparound services for homeless facilities. Supplement HUD funds.
- You’ve allocated a lot of the funds—
- Success breeds more resources. When you can document and show success increases ability to lobby for more funds.



### **United States Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg**

- As EVs become more affordable, provide more funding for charging stations
- Safe streets and roads for all in BIL—counties can access—safety is most fundamental.
- National roadway safety strategy to eliminate roadway deaths—safer roads, better standard of after crash care, safer vehicles—this is funded in BIL. \$1B per year. A huge proportion for planning — several hundred cities and 3 dozen funded construction. Do it with paint in planning finds before you commit construction funds. 40K deaths a year— we have so much data on this now. Save lives through better design.
- Technical assistance to help secure grants and get projects out.
- Safety also means an economic issue because people have to get where they need to go.

## **HSAC March Executive Committee Meeting**

### **County of Hawaii (COH) Report**

- \*Animal Control contract
- State Law special
- Section only for Kauai that we have to contract with Kauai Humane society Animal Control-only with dangerous Dogs—Dangerous Dog Law XXXX COK report HSAC conference September 15 at Koloa Landing really liked Big Island's one. Recommending visit each Moku on the island. Discuss RPT and invite RPT from each county so we can learn best practices.

### **County of Maui (COM) Report**

- Seated our 9th member after court decision about validity of ballots.
- Recognized central dispatch workers as first responders to support next step for them to become their own bargaining unit.

### **City and County of Honolulu Report**

- RPT relief/homeowner assistance
- CCH Conceal Carry Law—big deal with businesses guns welcome or no guns
- Three 201H bills last month
- DPP Designated Director—36 of these in the hopper but they want to use LIHTC funding. Ask Congress for more funding. Other NACO members all have the same issues with AH and homeless.



- EK agrees RPT should be discussed. Also Farm Bill—wants a new program on traditional food systems for indigenous peoples.

#### NACO report

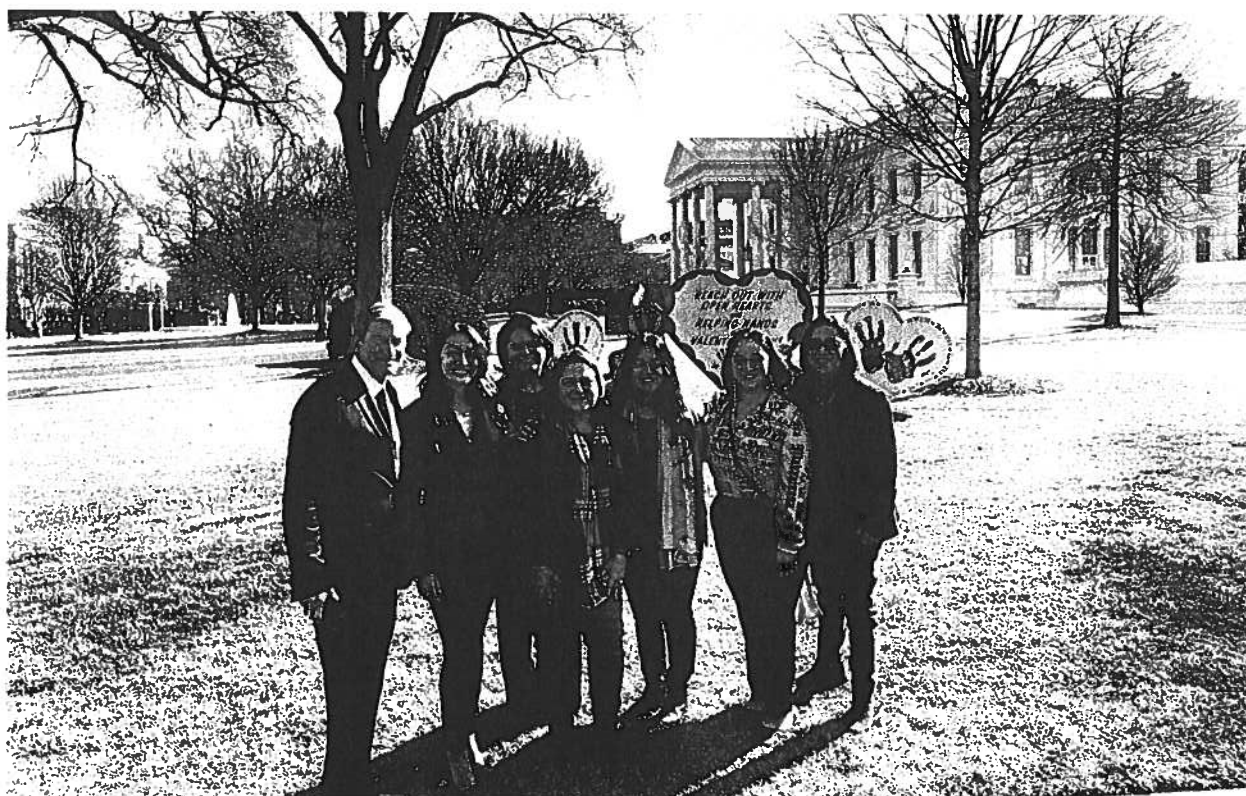
- 15/34 Hawaii Councilmembers are here
- Maui Mayor's office COS Leo Caires is here
- 30 policy resolutions considered at NACO BOD and finalize them in summer 29/30 approved, TW and KipuKai sit on board. Reso on cutting Federal Funding was postponed indefinitely. NACO arts and culture commission meeting—CM Kierkierwicz presented on revitalization.



Tuesday, February 14, 2023

## White House Tour

We had the opportunity to tour the White House on a self-guided tour. It was great to see pictures of Hawaii's own, former President Obama, throughout the home. Following the White House Tour, we went to the Office of Management & Budget, which is next door on the same campus as the Eisenhower Building.



*Council Chair Tommy Waters, Councilmember Ashley Kierkiewicz (Hawai'i County), Deputy Director of OMB Nani Coloretti, April Coloretti, Sommerset Yamamoto, Jocelyn Doane, and Vice-Chair Esther Kia'aina on the White House Lawn fronting the Valentine's Day display.*

## Office of Management & Budget Tour

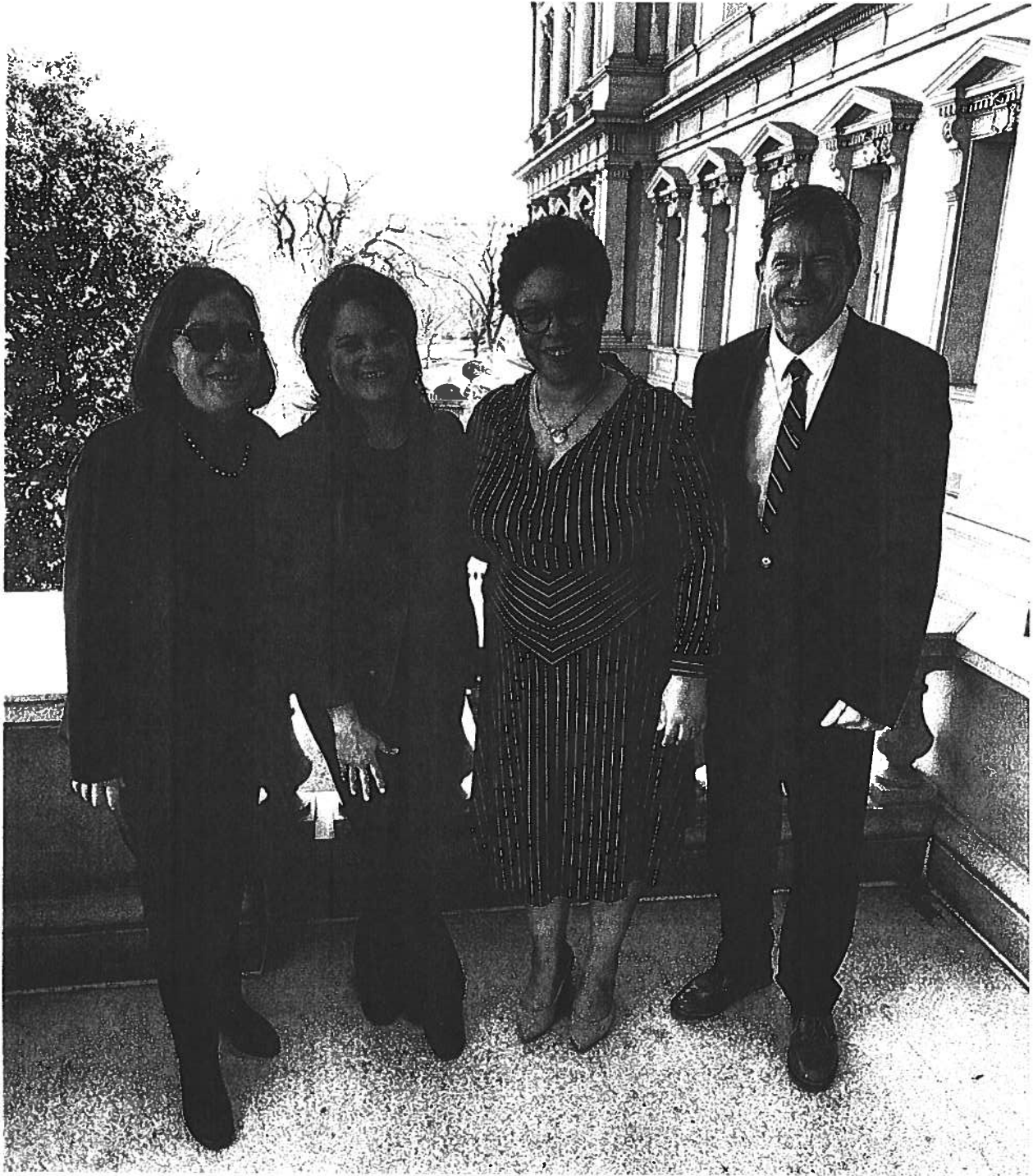


*Councilmember Ashley Kierkiewicz (Hawai'i County), Jocelyn Doane, Council Chair Tommy Waters, Vice-Chair Esther Kia'āina, April Coloretti, and Sommerset Yamamoto in Deputy Director of OMB's office.*

We met with OMB Director, Shalanda Young, OMB Deputy Director Nani Coloretti, and several of their advisors in the Office of Management & Budget. We discussed the strength and size of SLFRF funding, presented staff with omiyage from Hawai'i, and talked about the historic office.

We were also taken to the West Wing of the White House where we met with President Biden's speech writer and discussed his upcoming presentation at NACO later that afternoon.





*Vice-Chair Esther Kia'āina, Deputy Director of OMB Nani Coloretti, Director of OMB Shalanda Young, and Council Chair Tommy Waters at the OMB office.*

## Meeting with Senator Brian Schatz

Along with Vice Chair Kia'aina and her staff, we met with Hawai'i State Senator Brian Schatz. During our meeting with Senator Schatz, we discussed the use of discretionary funds and how to best utilize this resource to the betterment of our constituents and county. We plan to follow up and continue this important conversation with Senator Schatz.



*Vice Chair Esther Kia'aina, Senator Brian Schatz, and Council Chair Tommy Waters.*

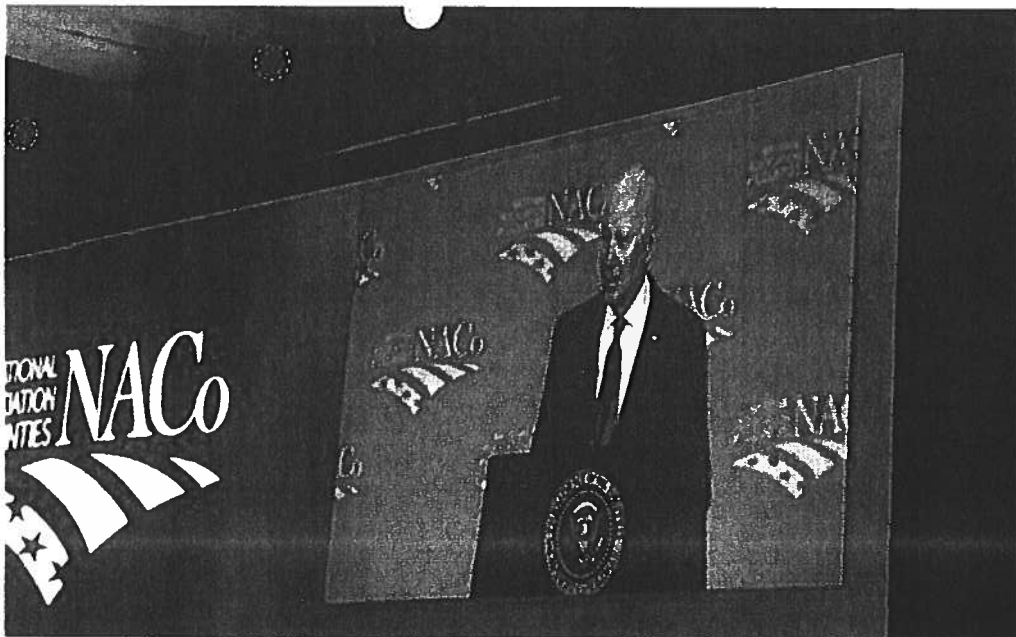


## Special Closing General Session

### President Joe Biden (POTUS)

- \$65.1B direct to counties through ARPA
- All constituent concerns come to the county. When you find you don't have funding it's hard to respond. We always do better with direct funding to our counties.
- I ran for US Senate because being on the county council was too hard.
- Gun violence is happening far too often in this country. Gun violence is ripping apart our country. Today marks 5 years to the day that parkland Florida happened. Our hearts are with U of Michigan.
- There is no rationale for assault weapons and magazines that hold 50 rounds.
- When people have a problem they come to you, even when you're in the grocery store. You're the ones who make sure things get fixed.
- Less than two months after getting into office the American Rescue plan (ARPA) happened. In 2020 CARES Act required counties to go to the state legislature and only 120 counties got help.
- With ARPA, 3000+ counties got direct funding. 12 million jobs Last month alone. Unemployment is 3.4%. Each job application is hope!
- Training residents to be nurses and child care professionals
- \$12B for mental health in ARPA
- We need legislation for the way technology is hurting our kids.
- Most significant gun safety in 10 years
- \$10B and \$2B to pay for school counselors.
- 23,000 pounds of fentanyl seized in the last few months.
- We used to be #1 and now we are #14 in the Economy.
- BIA (Bipartisan Infrastructure Act)-rebuilding our country. Replacing diesel buses, building bridges, improving highways, internet for all.
- \$16M more Americans have affordable internet and we are adding more.
- 800K jobs created in one year.
- America is exporting products and creating jobs at home.
- Inflation has fallen 7 straight months and gas is down \$1.6 since its peak.
- We will have bumps in the road for sure, and there could be setbacks.
- We are lowering costs for families.
- Today's data reinforces that we've made significant progress.
- Blue collar blueprint is the way to Revive America.
- Semiconductors were invented in America.
- The average salary at one of the factories is \$130K a year, and you don't need a college degree.

- Some have been threatening to hold the economy hostage by withholding SS and Medicare.
- Insulin pricing—\$35 a month—it costs \$10 to make and packaging costs \$2!
- Threatening to default on our debt which will be catastrophic. Raise borrowing costs. Harder to finance.
- 200 year old national debt
- 25% of that debt was from during the Trump presidency of just four years.
- Instead of making threats on debt ceiling—\$3 trillion debt ceiling
- Raised quickest in the last 4 yr. administration (Trump).
- Corporations pay 50% of the tax more corporations are Inc. in Delaware, more than other 49 states combined. 55 corps of Fortune 500 paid less tax then a nurse, cop, street sweeper. Corporate min tax is 15%. Get rid of the corporation minimum tax and you will add \$200+ million to the national deficit.
- Stock buyback—I made a mistake. As a US senator no Corporation's president could make more than \$1M from their company so everyone was paid with stock. But when you buy back stock, it raises money for stockholders. Oil companies made \$200B in the energy crisis and didn't invest in their facilities.
- \$74B if you get rid of stock buyback increase national debt
- We can be fiscally responsible without sending country into chaos
- Budget introduced on March 9 will cut the deficit by \$2T in the next 10 years.
- I'm optimistic for the year ahead. Real benefits people will feel in their lives. We do it together, both parties. Our best days are ahead of us. There's nothing we can't do.



*President Joe Biden speaks to NACO.*



## Conclusion

The National Association of Counties is a great organization and a really good resource for the Honolulu City Council. The conference for several thousand attendees was run efficiently.

Networking with other legislators from other counties around the country gives us different perspectives. More importantly, it also gives us different solutions to many of the same problems all cities share in common. While at the conference I had conversations with other county legislators about affordable housing, solutions for homeless individuals, gun control and concealed carry permits, and federal funding in all shapes and sizes.



*Sommerset Yamamoto, Council Chair Tommy Waters, and April Coloretti outside of the Washington Monument.*



City Council  
City and County of Honolulu

# CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: 05/02/2023

Traveler: Tommy Waters

Event: <sup>2023</sup> NACo Legislative Conference

Location: Washington D.C.

Dates: From Feb. 9, 2023

To Feb. 15, 2023

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee	n/a	already reimbursed
2. Airfare	n/a	already reimbursed
3. Hotel	1517.35	Stayed 2/10 - 2/15
4. Meals	<del>98</del> 17.00	
5. Ground Transportation	140.13	
6. Tips		
7. Other	30	Baggage Fees
Other		
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	<del>1785.48</del> 1794.50	

This is to certify that the above data, based upon receipts submitted to Council Administrative Support Services via a CCLTRVL02 form, is accurate. Further, I am claiming reimbursement for expenses associated with a trip in which City business was conducted and personal funds were used to advance payment:

  
Signature of Traveler

5/2/23  
Date